

Complete listing of claims

1. (Currently Amended) A pallet comprising:

a top deck member having an upper surface, and a lower surface defined by a plurality of first cross-rib members extending substantially perpendicular to one another; and

4B1 a bottom deck member having an upper portion and a plurality of runners extending downwardly from the upper portion, the upper portion having an upper surface defined by a plurality of second cross-rib members extending perpendicular to one another and corresponding generally to the first cross-rib members and attached thereto to securely attach the top deck and bottom deck to each other, the runners extending transversely across the pallet in a generally parallel orientation and having a lower surface, the runners further having a plurality of upright members and support members extending between the upright members, wherein the plurality of second cross-rib members extend from the upper surface of the bottom deck to the lower surface of the runners.

2. (Original) The pallet of claim 1, wherein the support member has an upper support surface and a lower support surface, wherein one of the upper support and lower support surfaces is defined by a plurality of rib members.

3. (Original) The pallet of claim 2, wherein the lower support surface is defined by a plurality of rib members.

4. (Original) The pallet of claim 1, wherein the first and second cross-rib members are attached to each other by a welding process.

5. (Original) The pallet of claim 1, wherein the bottom surfaces of the upright members and support members are co-planar.

6. (Original) The pallet of claim 1, further comprising at least one reinforcement member extending between the top deck and bottom deck.

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7. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 6, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the top deck and the upper surface of the bottom deck have at least one channel formed therein for receiving the at least one reinforcement member therein.

8. (Previously Presented) A pallet comprising:

a first deck member having an upper surface arranged for receiving a load thereupon, and a lower surface having a first plurality of cross-ribs; and

a second deck member having a horizontally disposed upper portion with a lower surface, and an upper surface defined by a second plurality of cross-ribs corresponding generally to and mating with the first plurality of cross-ribs, the second deck further having a lower portion, the lower portion extending downwardly from the upper portion and defined by a plurality of generally parallel runners for supporting the pallet, the runners spaced apart from each other to define openings therebetween, each runner having a plurality of post members and at least one support member extending between the bottom of the post members for interconnecting the posts members the upper portion including at least one reinforced section extending across at least two of the post members.

9. (Original) The pallet of claim 8, wherein the support member has an upper support surface and a lower support surface, wherein one of the upper support and lower support surfaces is defined by a plurality of rib members.

10. (Original) The pallet of claim 9, wherein the lower support surface is defined by a plurality of rib members.

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11. (Original) The pallet of claim 8, wherein the first and second plurality of cross-ribs are attached by a welding process.

12. (Original) The pallet of claim 8, wherein the bottom surfaces of the post members and support members are co-planar.

13. (Original) The pallet of claim 8, further comprising at least one reinforcement member extending between the first deck and second deck.

14. (Original) The pallet of claim 13, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the first deck and the upper surface of the second deck have at least one channel formed therein for receiving the at least one reinforcement member therein.

15. (Currently Amended) A pallet assembly comprising:
an upper deck portion having a first mating cross-ribbed surface, and a load surface opposite the first mating ribbed surface; and

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a lower deck portion having a second mating ribbed surface defined by a plurality of rib members intersecting one another, a lower surface opposite the second mating ribbed surface, and a plurality of generally parallel legs extending downwardly from the lower surface to form a unitary construction therewith, the legs spaced apart from each other to define pallet openings therebetween, the legs having at least one post member within which some of the plurality of intersecting rib members extend to a bottom surface of the at least one post member, and a foot portion extending across a bottom of the at least one post member and forming a unitary construction therewith, wherein the first and second mating ribbed surfaces are mounted to each other for securing the upper deck portion and lower deck portion together.

16. (Original) The pallet of claim 15, wherein the foot portion has a foot upper surface and a foot lower surface, wherein one of the foot upper and foot lower surfaces includes a plurality of foot rib members.

17. (Currently Amended) The pallet of claim 15, wherein one of the first and second mating ribbed surfaces has a locating member projecting therefrom, and the other of the first and second mating ribbed surfaces has a recess formed therein for receiving the locating member therein to aid in aligning the upper and lower decks.

18. (Original) The pallet of claim 15, wherein the first and second mating ribbed surfaces are attached by a welding process.

19. (Original) The pallet of claim 15, further comprising at least one reinforcement member extending between the upper deck portion and lower deck portion.

20. (Original) The pallet of claim 15, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the upper deck portion and the upper surface of the lower deck portion have at least one channel formed therein for receiving a reinforcement member therein.

21. (Currently Amended) A pallet for supporting goods comprising:

a top deck member having an upper surface upon which said goods are supported, and
a lower surface having a plurality of first cross-rib members forming first partial box-beam sections; and

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a bottom deck member having an upper surface having a plurality of second cross-rib members crossing one another and forming second partial box beam sections and corresponding generally to the first cross-rib members, the first and second cross-rib members attached to form box-beam sections between the top deck and bottom deck, the bottom deck member further including a plurality of runners projecting downwardly from the upper surface in a unitary construction and extending transversely across the pallet in a generally parallel orientation and having a lower surface, the runners further having a plurality of upright members and support members extending between the upright members and integrally formed therewith in a unitary construction, wherein the plurality of second cross-rib members extend from the upper surface of the bottom deck to the lower surface of the runners.

22. (Original) The pallet of claim 21, wherein the plurality of first and second cross-rib members are attached by a welding process.

23. (Original) The pallet of claim 21, further comprising at least one reinforcement member extending between the top deck and bottom deck.

24. (Original) The pallet of claim 23, wherein at least one of the lower surface of the upper deck portion and the upper surface of the lower deck portion have at least one channel formed therein for receiving the at least one reinforcement member therein.

25. (Currently Amended) A pallet:

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a first deck member having first mating surface having a plurality of first cross-rib members forming first partial box-beam sections; and

a second deck member having a second mating surface having a plurality of second cross-rib members forming second partial box beam sections and corresponding generally to the first cross-rib members, the first and second mating surfaces attached to form box-beam sections between the first deck member and second deck member, the second deck member further including a plurality of runners projecting downwardly from the second mating surface in a unitary construction and extending transversely across the second deck member in a generally parallel orientation, the runners further having a plurality of post members and support members extending between the post members and integrally formed therewith in a unitary construction, wherein the plurality of second cross-rib members extend transversely to one another and extend between the second mating surface and a lower portion of the runners.

26. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 8 wherein the cross-ribs in the reinforced section are taller than the cross-ribs not in the reinforced section.

27. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 26 further including a plurality of the reinforced sections extending transversely to the runners.

28. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 27 wherein the upper portion includes a generally planar member from which the second plurality of cross-ribs extend upwardly, the planar member contoured downwardly at the reinforced sections to form elongated channels from which the taller cross-ribs extend.

29. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 28 wherein the second plurality of cross-ribs, the plurality of runners and the plurality of post members are all integrally molded as one-piece.

30. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the second cross-rib members, the plurality of runners and the plurality of upright members are all integrally molded as one-piece.

31. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 7 wherein the channel is defined by outer edges of the first cross-rib members or outer edges of the second cross-rib members.

32. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 31 wherein the channel is defined between outer edges of the first cross-rib members and outer edges of the second cross-rib members.

33. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 31 wherein the channel is defined by a series of aligned notches in the first or second cross-rib members.

34. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 33 wherein the upper portion includes a generally planar member from which the plurality of second cross-rib members extend upwardly, the planar member contoured downwardly at the channels from which extend second cross-rib members that are taller than second cross-rib members not at the channels.

35. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 34 wherein the plurality of second cross-rib members, the plurality of runners and the plurality of upright members are all integrally molded as one-piece.

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36. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 17 wherein the recess includes an open end into which the locating member is received and an opposite closed end.

37. (Previously Presented) A pallet comprising:

a top deck having an upper surface and a lower surface defined by a plurality of first ribs; and

a bottom deck having an upper portion and a plurality of upright members extending downwardly from the upper portion, the upper portion having an upper surface defined by a plurality of second ribs corresponding generally to the first ribs and attached thereto to securely attach the top deck and bottom deck to each other, the upper portion including at least one reinforced section extending between at least two of the upright members, the second ribs in the reinforced section being taller than the second ribs not in the reinforced section.

38. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 37 further including a plurality of the parallel reinforced sections extending at least substantially across the upper surface of the upper portion of the bottom deck.

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39. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 37 wherein the upper portion includes a generally planar member from which the second ribs extend upwardly, the planar member contoured downwardly at the reinforced sections to form elongated channels from which the taller second ribs extend.

40. (Previously Presented) The pallet of claim 39 wherein the second ribs, the generally planar member and the plurality of upright members are all integrally molded as one-piece.
